

Whereas the United Nations has authoritatively endorsed and helped to advance progress toward realizing the human rights of persons with disabilities, as exemplified by the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 48/96 of December 20, 1993), which are monitored by a United Nations Special Rapporteur;

Whereas because of the slow and uneven progress of ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy their universal human rights in law and in practice, every society and the international community remain challenged to identify and implement the processes which best protect the dignity of persons with disabilities and which fully implement their inherent human rights;

Whereas greater and more rapid progress must be achieved toward overcoming the relative invisibility of persons with disabilities in many societies, national laws, and existing international human rights instruments; and

Whereas, accordingly, the United Nations General Assembly in November 2001, adopted an historic resolution to establish an ad hoc committee open to all United Nations member nations to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral treaty to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should play a leading role in the drafting of a thematic United Nations convention that affirms the human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and that—

(A) is consistent with the spirit of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, the United States Constitution, and other rights enjoyed by United States citizens with disabilities;

(B) promotes inclusion, independence, political enfranchisement, and economic self-sufficiency of persons with disabilities as foundational requirements for any free and just society; and

(C) provides protections that are at least as strong as the rights that are now recognized under international human rights law for other vulnerable populations; and

(2) the President should instruct the Secretary of State to send to the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee meetings a United States delegation that includes individuals with disabilities who are recognized leaders in the United States disability rights movement.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise to submit a concurrent resolution on behalf of myself, Senator CHAFEE and Senator KENNEDY. This resolution deals with an issue that I have been working on for many years in a bipartisan manner. It simply calls on the United States to take a leading role in the drafting of an international convention on the human rights of individuals with disabilities. Such a treaty could improve the lives of over 600 million individuals with disabilities throughout the world.

For the past twenty years, the United States has put politics aside and has taken a lead role in the world toward the understanding that disability rights are human rights. I chaired the Senate's Subcommittee on the Handicapped at the time that the Americans With Disabilities Act was being considered by Congress and was a leading author of the ADA. During

hearings, I heard over and over again stories of people with disabilities suffering from discrimination—not getting a job because of a disability; being locked up in a nursing home or institution because of a disability; not being able to get into schools, restaurants, stores, banks and other places of business because of a disability. This kind of discrimination is wrong. It is wrong in the United States and it is wrong throughout the world.

In 1990, then President Bush signed the ADA into law. He said, "This historic Act is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities. Its passage has made the United States the international leader on this human rights issue." The United States did lead the way in 1990, and it has another historic opportunity to lead the way today.

The issue of disability rights is very personal to me. As many of my colleagues know, my brother Frank was deaf. Because of his disability, he was sent to a school for the "deaf and dumb" across the State. Frank said to me, "I may be deaf but I am not dumb." I think of how many children, like Frank, in the world are suffering the effects of this sort of discrimination. How many children are not going to school because they are deaf, or use a wheelchair, or are blind? How many adults with these same disabilities are not working, not earning a living, not participating in civil society?

In recent months, we have all witnessed the situation people with disabilities face in Iraq and in Afghanistan. We have seen footage of the results of the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. We have seen many individuals who have life-long disabilities as a result of his cruelty. Many more are victims of terrorism and cruelty who now suffer the added injury of discrimination.

America has an historic opportunity to help change the lives of these children and adults from around the world and open the doors of opportunity to them. It is time for the world community to come together and write an important new chapter and break down the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating in their communities and play an active role in civil society. It is time to say to all of the world that disability rights are human rights, not just in the United States, but everywhere in the world. I strongly urge the Bush Administration to take a lead and work with other member Nations in the drafting of this resolution. Under the auspices of the United Nations, member states are scheduled to meet next week in New York to consider proposals for a comprehensive treaty to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. I cannot think of a more worthwhile role the Administration could play than to be a leader on this issue and to fully support a convention on the rights of individuals with disabilities.

America's leadership in this process will help create a treaty that is both well intentioned and relevant, one that may fulfill its potential and vastly improve the perceptions, treatment and conditions of people with disabilities throughout the world. The United States must continue to lead the way in this important international effort.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 871. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. BUNNING) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

SA 872. Mr. JEFFORDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 873. Mr. JEFFORDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 874. Mr. JEFFORDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 875. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. REID, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Ms. SNOWE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, supra.

SA 876. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, supra.

SA 877. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 876 proposed by Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. LEAHY) to the bill S. 14, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 871. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. BUNNING) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 238, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

Subtitle E—Measures to Conserve Petroleum
SEC. ____ . REDUCTION OF DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED PETROLEUM.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1, 2004, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report, based on the most recent edition of the Annual Energy Outlook published by the Energy Information Administration, assessing the progress made by the United States toward the goal of reducing dependence on imported petroleum sources by 2013.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall—

(A) include a description of the implementation, during the previous fiscal year, of provisions under this Act relating to domestic crude petroleum production;

(B) assess the effectiveness of those provisions in meeting the goal described in paragraph (1); and

(C) describe the progress in developing and implementing measures under subsection (b).